

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-22. (Cancelled).

23. (New) An optical measurement apparatus comprising:

an ion-exchange resin;

a synthetic absorbent;

an optical measurement section for measuring the concentration of an optically active substance in a sample based on optical characteristics of said optically active substance after said sample is passed through said ion-exchange resin and said synthetic absorbent;

a control section for continuously monitoring a measurement result from said optical measurement section; and

a regenerating section for regenerating said ion-exchange resin with a regenerant, wherein

said control section makes a determination, based on the monitoring of said measurement result, as to whether ion-exchange ability of said ion-exchange resin has become saturated or not, and

said control section conducts a regeneration by said regenerating section when said control section determines that said ion-exchange resin has become saturated.

24. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said regenerating section regenerates said ion-exchange resin with alkaline ionized water.

25. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said regenerating section includes an alkaline ionized water producing section for producing said alkaline ionized water from tap water.

26. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said regenerating section regenerates said ion-exchange resin with acid water.

27. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 26, wherein said regenerating section includes an acid water producing section for producing said acid water from tap water.

28. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said regenerating section also cleans said ion-exchange resin with tap water.

29. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said ion-exchange resin is replaceably mounted.

30. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said ion-exchange resin is a weak base ion-exchange resin.

31. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said ion-exchange resin is filled into a column having a transparent window.

32. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a detecting section for detecting the color of said ion-exchange resin.

33. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said control section computes the concentration of said optically active substance by

using the measurement result obtained when said measurement result has settled to a steady-state value.

34. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said optically active substance is urine sugar.

35. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said ion-exchange resin is an anion-exchange resin, a mixed-bed ion-exchange resin, or a cation-exchange resin.

36. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said control section makes a determination, based on the monitoring of said measurement result, as to the degree to which said ion-exchange resin has been regenerated by said regenerant.

37. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said control section controls the amount of said regenerant.

38. (New) The optical measurement apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said optical measurement apparatus is installed in a toilet seat or a toilet bowl.